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PATENT APPLICATION

for

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CHANGING THE
RATE OF TIME-DISCRETE SIGNALS**

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CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

[001] This application claims priority from German application 102 40 134.9 filed August 30, 2003, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by this reference.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[002] The present invention relates to methods and apparatus for interpolating input values of an input signal, whereby output values of an output signal are produced, whose frequency is greater than the frequency of the input signal and whereby the shape of the output signal essentially corresponds to the shape of the input signal.

10 [003] This kind of interpolation, in which input values occurring at a first frequency are converted into output values occurring at a higher second frequency, is also described as rate changing. This kind of rate changing or interpolation within the meaning of the present invention is used for example in cases where an output signal of a fixed frequency is to be produced without loss of data from time-discrete input signals
15 of varying frequencies. This kind of application results, for example, in the case of data transmission with pulse amplitude modulation. In this case, it is unimportant for the present invention whether the ratio between the frequency of the output signal and the frequency of the input signal is an integer or a non-integer amount.

20 [004] For interpolation or rate changing, it is known in the prior art to take over the input values and fill them in with certain number of zeros, so that the desired rate or frequency of the output signal is obtained. Apart from this, it is also known to take over the input values and additionally to repeat the single input values, until the desired rate of the output values or the desired frequency of the output signal is obtained. This kind of method is represented in Fig. 2. Here, x_n designates a number of input values, to

which a higher number of output values is to be assigned. In this case, the output values are designated with z_k according to the principle of zero filling and the output values with y_k , for the production of which no zeros are used, but input values x_n are often repeated. In the cases represented in Fig. 2, the ratio between the frequency of the
 5 output signal and the frequency of the input signal is 7, that is to say in each case 7 output values must be produced from one input value.

[005] If the rate change ratio or the ratio between the frequencies of the input signal and the output signal is not an integer amount, particular problems arise. Fig. 3 shows the case where the rate change ratio is 7.5. Both output signals z_k and y_k are again
 10 produced by the method of zero filling described above or holding or repeating single input values. As evident from the diagrams, the output values z_k , y_k , which are obtained by directly taking over a new input value x_n , do not necessarily coincide with these in the time domain. Thus, the second and the third input value x_n in each case lie in the time domain between two adjacent output values z_k , y_k . As a result, the disadvantage
 15 arises that the input values x_n and the signal changes corresponding to these in the output signal or in the case of the output values z_k , y_k are not always in phase.

[006] In order to overcome this disadvantage, it is also known to fold the input values x_n onto a certain interpolation progression, whereby an interpolation pulse is assigned to each input value x_n , which in regard to its time location is aligned to the
 20 assigned input value x_n . The output values are computed in such a way that they follow the progression of the interpolation pulses. Output values z_k , y_k produced by this method are represented in Fig. 4, whereby z_k replicates the sequence of the output values according to the zero filling method and y_k the sequence of the output values according to the holding method. This computation more particularly in the case of the output

values y_k produced by the holding or repeat method requires an unfavorably high computational cost.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[007] Therefore, an object of the present invention is to create a method or a device for interpolating input values of an input signal of the type detailed above 5 whereby the cost is reduced.

[008] This object is achieved according to the invention by a method including the steps of determining the difference between a first and a subsequent second input value; scaling interpolation values of an interpolation progression in dependence on the difference determined between the first and a subsequent second input value; and 10 producing successive output values by addition of the first input value to a scaled interpolation value.

[009] An apparatus in accordance with the invention includes means for producing output values of an output signal in dependence on the input value of an input signal, wherein the frequency of the output signal is greater than the frequency of the input 15 signal and the shape of the output signal essentially corresponds to the shape of the input signal; means for determining the difference in each case between a first and a subsequent second input value; means for scaling interpolation values of an interpolation progression in dependence on the difference determined between the first and subsequent second input value; and means for producing successive output values 20 in each case for addition of the first input value to a scaled interpolation value.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[010] To further clarify the above and other advantages and features of the present invention, a more particular description of the invention will be rendered by reference to specific embodiments thereof which are illustrated in the appended drawings. It is
5 appreciated that these drawings depict only typical embodiments of the invention and are therefore not to be considered limiting of its scope. The invention will be described and explained with additional specificity and detail through the use of the accompanying drawings in which:

[011] Fig. 1 shows a block diagram of a device for interpolating time-discrete
10 input values,

[012] Fig. 2 shows the interpolation of the zero order of time-discrete input values with a rate change ratio, which is an integer amount,

[013] Fig. 3 shows the interpolation of the zero order of time-discrete input values with a rate change ratio, which is not an integer amount,

15 [014] Fig. 4 shows the interpolation of the third order of time-discrete input values with a rate change ratio, which is not an integer amount,

[015] Fig. 5 shows interpolation progressions for use in an embodiment of the present invention,

20 [016] Fig. 6 shows the profiles of auxiliary signals in order to produce interpolated output values according to the embodiment of the present invention, and

[017] Fig. 7 shows a device to implement the method according to the invention according to the exemplary embodiment of this invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[018] Interpolation values according to the invention are provided along an interpolation progression, whereby the interpolation values are used for computing the transitions from one input value to the next. For this purpose, the difference is
5 determined between a first input value and the following second input value and the interpolation values are scaled in dependence on the difference determined. At least part of the output values is produced in each case subsequently by the first input value being added in each case to a scaled interpolation value. Thus, the progression of the output values, which corresponds to the jump from one input value to the next can be
10 computed at minimal cost.

[019] The method according to the invention can be used for input values or output values, which are equally spaced or not equally spaced in the time domain.

[020] The number of interpolation values of an interpolation progression depends on the order of the interpolation. An interpolation method of higher order has
15 several interpolation values within an interpolation progression, so that the transition from one input value to the next input value in the case of the output values results in a higher number of output values. The number of interpolation values used for an interpolation progression is equal to the order of the interpolation plus 1.

[021] If the frequency ratio between output signal and input signal is greater
20 than the number of interpolation values in an interpolation progression, advantageously not all output values have to be produced by adding an input value to at least one scaled interpolation value. Instead, it is also possible to produce output values according to the interpolation progression simply by the fact that either the last output value produced by addition or the second input value is repeated. This repetition takes place as often as

necessary until the next input value is obtained and the output values are again computed by adding an input value to at least one interpolation value.

[022] Advantageously, the interpolation values are computed in dependence on the phase difference or the time difference between an input value and an output value.

5 Thus, it is possible to ensure that the time location of the interpolation progression can be exactly aligned with the input values and at the same time the time location of the interpolation values in the interpolation progression can be exactly matched to the clock of the output values. More particularly, for this purpose the time difference is determined between the first input value in each case and the output value to be emitted
10 next. This time difference is applied to the continuous progression of the interpolation profile, in order to determine the time location of the first interpolation value related to the time plane of the interpolation progression. The following interpolation values follow on the time plane of the interpolation progression in the time domain of the output values.

15 [023] When computing the output values, it is proposed that the first input value for computing an output value is added in each case to only one interpolation value. With this method, the interpolation values are advantageously selected in such a way that the second input value is almost obtained at the end of the interpolation progression or with addition of the first input value to the last interpolation value. The
20 following output values are produced by taking over the second input value.

[024] In the case of the method described above, the interpolation progression is selected advantageously so that it begins with the value zero.

[025] After the transition from the first input value to the second input value has finished in the case of the output values computed with the aid of the interpolation

values, the series of output values can also be continued with a same value, by the interpolation values being applied so that they no longer change and further computations lead to no other result. Advantageously however, the series of the output values is continued by using the second input value for these and frequently repeated accordingly. In this way, the computational cost can be greatly reduced.

[026] In an advantageous embodiment, the output values are produced with the aid of a chain of delay elements, whereby the delay elements can be formed analogously or digitally and the values of the results stored in the individual delay elements can be reproduced in the clock of the output values. The delay elements are expanded by adders, with which the interpolation values can be added either on the output or input at least of some of the delay elements.

[027] Initially, the first input value without addition of interpolation values is shifted to several delay elements. Subsequently, for the length of a shift cycle the interpolation values are offered for summation, so that at the end of this clock cycle the sum of the input value in each case with a locked on interpolation value is stored in each case in the next delay elements of the chain. The correct values for the output values are thus already stored in the delay elements, to be emitted simply by being sent out from the delay elements of the chain. The first interpolation value for computing the first output value in dependence on the interpolation progression in this case must be offered with regard to the last delay element, since this contains the first value emitted.

[028] In order to obtain the difference between the first input value and the second input value a subtracter and a delay element are preferably used, whereby the delay element is fed with the input values and holds the previous input value in each case ready on the output. The subtracter provides the difference between the input of the

delay element or the current input value and the output of the delay element or the previous input value.

[029] The device 1 represented in Fig. 1 for interpolating time-discrete input values x_n produces time-discrete output values y_k at the output, whereby the frequency 5 of the output values y_k is greater than the frequency of the input values x_n . For this reason, the output values y_k possess a different index k to the input values x_n , whose index is n . The frequency ratio between the output values y_k and the input values x_n can be an integer as well as a non-integer amount.

[030] To assist in understanding of the present invention, the result of the 10 interpolation of input values x_n is shown in Fig. 2, whereby output values z_k or y_k have been obtained in two different ways. The output values z_k were computed according to the zero filling method, whereby the spaces between two adjacent input values x_n and x_{n+1} have been filled in with a corresponding number of zeros. In the case of the output values y_k shown underneath the holding or repeat method has been applied, whereby 15 repeated use of an input value x_n as output value is made until a new input value arose. In Fig. 2 the rate change or interpolation is represented with the integer amount 7. Fig. 3 corresponds to the representation of Fig. 2, whereby the rate change ratio is 7.5 instead of 7 and thus is not an integer amount. In the sequences of the output values z_k and y_k it can clearly be seen that the value or flank different from zero in the case of a value 20 jump is not necessarily synchronous with the causal input value x_n .

[031] In order to exclude this phase difference, the input values x_n are folded onto interpolation pulses, as a result of which the profiles represented in Fig. 4 occur. Clearly, it is to be seen that although the individual output values z_k or y_k are not

synchronous with the input values x_n , the maxima or flanks of the signals formed by the output values z_k or y_k are synchronous with the input values x_n .

[032] In the following, an embodiment of the present invention is described, in which the output values y_k can be produced in accordance with Fig. 4.

5 [033] In the embodiment when a new input value x_n is received the difference between the new input value x_n and the previous input value x_{n-1} is obtained. In the following, the current or new input value is designated as the second input value and the previous input value is designated as the first input value.

[034] The embodiment of the present invention can be implemented with the
10 device represented diagrammatically in Fig. 7, which is described below. Central element of the device 1 in accordance with Fig. 7 is a chain of delay elements 3, which pass on the values in each case stored in the clock of the output values y_k . At the output of each delay element 3 is provided an adder 6, which passes on to the subsequent delay element 3 the sum of the value of the previous delay element 3 and an interpolation
15 value PO... PN made available by an interpolation value generator 5. Additionally, the adders 6 are equipped so that they can be actuated by a control 2, whereby with the aid of the control it can be determined whether the adders 6 add the locked on interpolation values PO... PN or otherwise. The sequence of the output values y_k finally lies at the output of the last adder 6. Device 1 is controlled by the clock n of the input values x_n ,
20 the clock k, with which the output values y_k are to be emitted, the input values x_n as well as a time difference D. The time difference D is computed by a component (not illustrated) and represents the time difference between the occurrence of the first input value and the time-point, at which the next output value is to be emitted after the first input value.

[035] The basic principle of the embodiment consists of adding the first input value to a series of interpolation values, so that a transition from the first input value to the second input value is produced with an increased number of support points, which are formed by the output values y_k .

5 [036] In accordance with the embodiment, the output values y_k are produced by adding the first input value in each case to an interpolation value. A possible progression of the interpolation values is represented in the lowest diagram in Fig. 5 and designated with P, whereby arbitrary profiles are possible. The interpolation values P represent the points marked with small circles along an interpolation profile, which is 10 represented as a continuous line. The interpolation progression is continuous, starts with 0 and ends with 1. The interpolation value represented first or on the left does not lie at the time value 0 on the continuous interpolation profile, but at a point, which corresponds to the time difference D, in order to take into account the fact that at the time-point of the output value y_k to be computed as the first, the first input value x_n used 15 for this computation has already passed the time difference D. The following interpolation values lie in the time domain of the output values y_k . In this example, the time difference D is equal to 0.3, so that the first interpolation value is determined with the factor 0.3. The second interpolation value is determined with the factor 1.3, the third interpolation value with the factor 2.3 and the fourth interpolation value with the factor 20 3.3, whereby the factors are related to the time duration of the output signal. With the aid of these four interpolation values in this example of interpolation of the third order four output values y_k can be computed, whereby with the fourth interpolation value the second input value can almost be obtained, so that for the fifth output value following on from these the second input value can already be used. However, before the

interpolation values are added to the first input value x_n , interpolation values must be scaled with the difference between the first input value and the second input value, so that in the end the second input value is also obtained with the last interpolation value.

[037] Generally, in the case of an interpolation of the nth order $n+1$ interpolation values are used, with which $n+1$ output values are produced by addition to the first input value. The $n+1$ th output value advantageously almost reaches at least the second input value and the output values following the $n+1$ th can be produced by repeating the second input value.

[038] In order to perform the aforementioned computation, the output values in each case are divided into a base portion v_k and an interpolation portion w_k . The base portion v_k corresponds to the first input value and interpolation portion w_k corresponds to the scaled interpolation values, whereby according to the last fourth interpolation value the series of the values of the interpolation portion w_k is filled in with zeros, until the next input value occurs and thus the next series of interpolation values.

[039] In the sequence of the values of the base portion v_k , the value of the first input value is continued or repeated in each case up to the last interpolation value, so that at the time-point where zero values join the interpolation values in the interpolation portion w_k , the second input value is used in the base portion v_k .

[040] This computation is performed with the device 1 according to Fig. 7, by the current input value x_n in the clock of the output values y_k being entered in the delay elements 3 of the chain, whereby the first delay element 3 represented on the left is designed to delay by only one clock cycle of the output values y_k . Simultaneously, the time difference D and the difference between the current input value and the previous input value lie on the interpolation value generator 5. The interpolation value generator

thereupon produces the interpolation values $P_0 \dots P_N$, whereby the device 1 is represented generally in Fig. 7 and N is the number of interpolation values used minus 1. At this time-point, the adders 6 are not yet actuated by the control 2, so that the current input value is shifted through the chain of the delay elements 3 unaltered. As soon as a new input value x_n is received or on arrival of a flank of the clock n of the input values x_n the control 2 with the next clock k of the output values y_k occurring controls the adders 6 in such a manner that they add the locked on interpolation values $P_0 \dots P_N$. Consequently, in each case the sum of the input value x_n previous to this time-point and in each case of an interpolation value $P_0 \dots P_N$ lies on the outputs of the adders 6. This sum is immediately emitted in the case of the last adder 6 represented on the right or in the case of the remaining adders 6 shifted further through the chain of the delay elements 3, so that the output values y_k are emitted in succession.

[041] The interpolation profile with the values P , represented at the bottom of Fig. 5, was the result of analytic integration of the profile of an interpolation pulse p , which is represented in Fig. 5 top. Apart from the analytic integration, the profile of the basic interpolation progression can also be numerically integrated, whereby the integral profile in the latter case is represented in Fig. 5 in the center with Σp . The difference of the profiles with numeric or analytic integration results from the fact that time-limited signals as the interpolation pulse p possess a theoretically infinite bandwidth and due to the finite sampling rate an alias error always develops so that for computing the interpolation values $P_0 \dots P_N$ use of the analytically integrated profile is preferred.

[042] The present invention may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from its spirit or essential characteristics. The described embodiments are to be considered in all respects only as illustrative and not restrictive. The scope of the

invention is, therefore, indicated by the appended claims rather than by the foregoing description. All changes which come within the meaning and range of equivalency of the claims are to be embraced within their scope.